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DEXTER, MAINE.

THE EASTERN GAZETTE

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DEXTER, MAINE

Supplement

The Early History of the Town of Dexter

By HALCYON CHASE

Preamble.

The historian who shall lift the veil enshrouding at least the facts, as yet unpublished chronologically, concerning many of Dexter's ancestors, through whose indefatigable efforts the Dexter of to-day has been made possible, will have accomplished much in the interest of its townspeople, whose ancestry were enrolled among the pioneer settlers. Certain it is that no stranger, ever so researchful, can even hope to present other than a traditional digest of Dexter's early struggle for existence, gleaned as the writer has done from a few, very few, of such archives as have escaped destruction, and from the older residents whose memories, while vividly recalling many interesting incidents, are woefully deficient as to dates, generally culminating in "thinks." Among those to whom the writer is indebted for such material as is interwoven in the necessarily brief resume of the town contained in this brochure, are Hon. Josiah Crosby, Cyrus Foss, Capt. Samuel Winslow, Allen Merrill, Lawyer T. H. B. Pierce, and Samuel Copeland.

Dexter,

as everybody knows, who has ever visited the town, or in passing through on the train have obtained a glimpse thereof from the summits over which traverses the iron highway, lies in a favored location, nestled amid mountainous hills, the crests of which command a kaleidoscopic view of surrounding hill and dale, superb beyond description, their grassy slopes dotted with the handsome residences of thrifty Dexterites, overlooking the populous industrial valley beneath.

Sandwiched as it were between the Penobscot and Kennebec rivers, connected by tortuous streams that outlet from numerous ponds, or fed from gushing springs that stud the intervening territory, while cradled mid the hills within the western borders of the town, is a beautiful sheet of water known as Silver pond, and in later days as Wassookeag

lake, its irregular moss fringed shores, embowered 'neath the leafy foliage in midsummer of the hemlock and birch, affording excellent opportunities for the erection of summer homes, already taken advantage of by a few, and the waters of which outlet into a stream meandering through the town with a fall of 142 feet in three-quarters of a mile, contributing to the operative maintainance of numerous industrial plants lining its banks, and with a tri-daily passenger service by rail, and equally as excellent freight accommodation, to and from the principal commercial centres, Dexter must be considered in the accounting of claims for ascendancy as a manufacturing centre, or for residential purposes.

Prior to its incorporation as a town, June 17, 1816, the six square miles comprising the village of Dexter was known as township 4, range 5, and in common with other lands within the province of Maine, belonging to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was surveyed, and the plans of 21 townships submitted to the Massachusetts authorities, by Ephraim Ballard and John Weston of Hallowell, in 1792. In 1794, James Bridge, a noted attorney of Augusta, contracted for the purchase of township 4, range 5, which through various assignments came into the possession of Andrew Cragie of Cambridge, Mass. In 1801 P. Coffin and John Reed were delegated as agents to make and execute conveyances of eastern lands, through whom, by authority of the General Court of Massachusetts, in 1804, Amos Bond and seven others of Watertown and Newton, Mass., became the proprietors, upon payment of \$6,180.00, excepting four lots of 325 acres each, reserved respectively for the first settled clergyman, the support of the ministry, a school lot and a lot for disposition by the General Court, provided, however, that at the expiration of eight years forty families should become settled within its borders.

Early Career. Industrial.

So far as tradition, supplemented by the limited records at hand, holds, the first individuals to locate

in the town were Ebenezer Small and John Tucker in 1800, who were guided thither by a spotted trail, Dexter at that period being little else than a vast wilderness. The primitive cabin of the former occupied a clearing defined by the lot whereon at present stands the law building of Crosby & Crosby on Main street. Within this rude home of the Small's was born unto them a daughter, Feb. 4, 1802, and christened Johannah, this being the first birth within the township.

Following these two pioneers came others, including Samuel Elkins of Cornville, who established a clearing near the outlet of Silver pond, or what is now termed Wassookeag lake, erected a cabin thereon, and from the surrounding big timber hewed out the frame for a saw and grist mill, which when completed and put in operation in 1803, constituted Dexter's inaugural industry.

The township thereafter, until its incorporation in 1816, was known as Elkinstown. A few years later Andrew Morse, who had become a town resident, and who subsequently became sheriff of Penobscot County, erected a carding mill upon Mr. Elkins' privilege, this being followed by the erection of a fulling mill on what is now known as Middlesex place by J. C. Hill. This mill was subsequently converted into a shoe factory and thence into a planing mill by C. W. Curtis, who acquired its possession, he being succeeded by the Eldridge Brothers. In the spring of 1888 this relic of by gone days, enlarged and improved for planing mill purposes, was partially destroyed by fire.

In 1816, James Russell built a tannery in the rear of the present bank block, later operated by Asa Merrill and Joshua Parker, and some years later reconstructed it into a dwelling, with a store occupying the first floor, the latter at divers times being occupied by Seth Davis, George Chase and Ozam McCrillis. Some years later the building was moved to Main street, adjoining Wyman's furniture house, and was subsequently burned.

In 1817 came Jonathan Farrar from Bloomfield, now Skowhegan, where he had been in trade, and opened a general store in what is now known as the Flynt house, built on Bryant's hill in 1811, and which is the oldest house in town. With the advent of Mr. Farrar Dexter, which had been incorporated the year previous, assumed a new lease of life and prosperity. Mr. Farrar being young, active, and possessed of some means, soon became aggressively identified with the town's industrial interests. He purchased the Elkins and Morse saw and carding mills with all the water and other privileges pertaining thereto. He instituted many improvements, and in 1820 disposed of the property to Jeremiah and Amos Abbott, who had emigrated thither from Andover, Mass. Under their enterprising manage-

ment and that of their heirs and successors has developed the present Abbott Woolen Company's plant. In the meantime, in 1818, Mr. Farrar had erected a grist mill, which subsequently was operated by James Jumper, Deacon Wetherbee and Levi Williams, and at present is owned and operated by S. L. Small, though the present structure contains but little of the original construction timber, the building having been reconstructed several times. In 1828 Mr. Farrar erected the tannery on Centre street, now a part of the Morrison Woolen Mills Company's plant, the tannery being operated by Moses Chase, who in turn was succeeded by Eben Wyman, and later by the Shaws—Charles, Fayette, and Brackley of Cummington, Mass., and still later by Charles Shaw & Sons, the tannery in later years becoming the property of its creditors. Later John L. Morrison acquired possession, in 1901. Shortly after the building of the tannery Samuel Baker erected a turning mill upon the opposite side of the stream from the tannery, which in 1839 was acquired by Farrar and Lysander Cutler, the latter having in 1828 come from Massachusetts and joined Mr. Farrar in his enterprises. Mr. Knowles, a well-known lawyer, then built a mill upon the same stream, nearly opposite the present brick mill, and not far from the saw mill previously built by Ebenezer Small. Mr. Knowles leased the mill to Samuel Baker who used it as a saw mill. Later it was leased to Joseph Shepherd and Hiram Spooner, the latter subsequently acquiring a mill of his own at Spooner's Mills village, the mill at present being operated by his sons. The Knowles mill was later converted into a box mill by Reuben Flanders, who previous thereto had carried on the business of cabinet making on Main street, near the bend. The box mill was destroyed by fire shortly after the war, though it had lain idle for some time, Mr. Flanders having removed to North Dexter where he operated a lumber mill. Meanwhile Farrar and Cutler converted the Baker turning mill into a machine shop which was operated by George Fitzgerald until 1851, when he removed its equipment to the building on Main street, near the present Dustin block, previously occupied by Wheeler and Bates as a shovel factory. Fitzgerald was succeeded by Nathaniel Dustin, this with other buildings being swept out of existence by the fire of April 23, 1883. In the late thirties Jeremiah and Amos Abbott erected a grist mill upon what is now known as Mill street, Sumner Shaw being for a long time miller thereof, and soon after Obed Foss built a carding mill across the street therefrom, which was later operated by Benjamin F. Durrell, this being followed by a foundry, built by the Fletchers of Skowhegan near the carding mill, which later became the property of Messrs. Jewett, Pennington

and Foss, and operated under the title of G. Jewett & Co. Mr. Foss retired therefrom in a year or so to enter business for himself, the foundry subsequently becoming the property of Nathaniel Dustin, Mr. Jewett going to Aroostook. In 1846 the Abbott grist mill became the property of Farrar and Cutler who converted it, by enlargement, into a woolen factory, since known as the white mill, the Foss carding mill being utilized as a picker house, and since its acquirement by the Morrisons used as an office and storehouse.

The Woolen Industry.

The manufacture of woollens, the chief industrial mainstay of Dexter, was inaugurated by the Abbotts—Jeremiah and Amos—in 1820, the business thus established by them still continuing to flourish. In 1834 Farrar and Cutler erected a mill upon the site of the present Dumbarton mill, the former being destroyed by fire in January, 1844, and replaced the same year by a two story stone structure, which imparted to it the title of the stone mill. Two years or so later Farrar and Cutler acquired the grist mill property of the Abbott Brothers, erected some ten years previous, which by enlargement and remodeling was converted into a woolen factory subsequently known as the white mill. In 1849 the brick mill, now the property of the Wassookeag Woolen Mills Co., was built by Foss and Conant and operated by A. E. Conant & Co. In 1854 all the foregoing properties were amalgamated by Farrar and Cutler. Business reversals enforced a transfer of these properties to Johnson and Sewall of Boston in 1857, the Dale Brothers being the practical executives of this firm, who leased the amalgamated plant to Richard W. Robinson who continued its operation until October, 1863, when Ebenezer Dale and his associates stepped in and reorganized its affairs under the title of the Dexter Woolen Mills Company, R. W. Robinson being made president thereof. In 1867 two stories of wood were added to the stone mill and other improvements instituted, and in 1880 Parkman Dexter and A. F. Bradbury, who had for some years prior thereto officiated as corporation agent, and others assumed the management, I. G. Wright becoming president and R. S. Russell treasurer, the title remaining intact. In 1898, these amalgamated properties having fallen into the hands of its bondholders, became disintegrated, the stone mill being leased to the Penobscot Woolen Co. of which S. S. Ireland and W. H. Abbott, two of Dexter's well-known business men, were president and treasurer, respectively. In 1903 the plant became the property of D. R. Campbell & Sons, and now known as the Dumbarton Woolen Mills. The white mill was sold to the Morrison Woolen Mill Company, who con-

tinued to operate it, and in 1899 D. H. Mudgett and his associates of the Wassookeag Woolen Mills Co. assumed the management of the brick mill, controlled by a few of Dexter's capitalists under the title of the Union Company.

In addition to the foregoing Calvin Copeland, in 1847, built and operated a woolen mill upon the site of the present Fay & Scott machine shop and which from 1860, until its destruction by fire in 1868, was operated at first by Campbell & Lynn, and later by D. R. Campbell alone. These several industrial enterprises, to which might be added the Fay & Scott machine plant, the two creameries, Silver Lake and Enterprise, and the canning factories of the Portland Packing Co., and F. H. Hayes of Dexter, which not only furnish employment to numerous hands during the canning season but are of incalculable advantage to the outlying agricultural community, combined with rapidly increasing mercantile interests, has brought Dexter to the fore in the commercial world. To the promoters and managers of these interests, past and present, is to be accredited a unanimity of spirit in enterprise and progressiveness rarely to be found in towns of like size.

Olla Podrida.

In 1803 the township was surveyed into lots by Simeon Safford, a settler, and in 1807 communication with Garland was opened by post road, which in 1816 had become an established highway. About the same time a post road had been opened between Bangor, Dexter and Skowhegan, which subsequently became a government mail route. The first post office was established in 1818, the mail for the following ten years being transported by post riders, Lawrence Green being the first to perform this arduous service.

In 1820 Dexter had attained a population of 500, many clearings had been made in the one time vast wilderness, and Main street, with one or two tributaries, had become fairly well defined. Jonathan Farrar was the principal merchant and also the postmaster. A saw mill, carding and fulling mill, tannery and grist mill comprised the industrial features, John Bates, subsequently a trader, being the village "smithy." Shortly thereafter William Smith established a ferry across Silver pond, now known as Wassookeag lake. The ferry, in 1824, was replaced by a floating bridge, this being supplanted by the present permanent structure in 1861.

In 1820 the first hotel or tavern was opened by Benjamin Greene on the hill, and in 1824 John Bates opened a public house just around the bend on Main street. The house is still standing, though both taverns relinquished the business in a few years after their establishment. In 1834 Stephen Davis opened a hotel on Main street upon the site of

the Dustin block, which for a long time was conducted by Jonas Wheeler, who in 1843 built and opened the Dexter House, located upon the Bank block site. The Dexter House was for many years a very popular hostelry and at one time was conducted by Eben Murch who subsequently, in company with John Quimby, assumed the management of the "DeWitt," in Lewiston. The Exchange,

Bank block, and raised one story, the lower story being at present occupied by J. Willis Haines, trader and American Express agent, and Mrs. Bailey. In 1828, Laurence Green, for ten years prior thereto mail post rider between Bangor and Dexter, established a mail and stage line between these points though the vehicles in use comprised almost any character of a trap that could be made available for



MAIN STREET IN 1847

fronting on Main, Wall and Spring streets, was built by Loring D. Hayes in 1866, the plot upon which it stands having prior thereto been the property of Augustus French, at one time postmaster of Dexter, and one of the town's well known dry goods merchants.

In 1874 the Dexter House was moved further along Main street, to make room for the erection of the

the purpose, and the same can be said of the line established later between Dexter and Skowhegan.

Early in the thirties John Favor began operating the stage line between Bangor and Dexter, placing a modern Troy coach thereon. This innovation at once met with popular approval and patronage. Robert Sampson and later Hiram Safford attended to the transportation of freight. Favor was suc-

ceeded by such well known and popular "whips" as Dennis Pullen, Si Washburn, John Smith and Jerry McDonald, the latter, still living in Bangor, in company with Walter Smith, previous to his conducting of the Bangor line, having operated the line between Dexter and Skowhegan. Still later, in the 40's, Jerry Scribner established a line between Waterville and Monson, subsequently extended to Moosehead Lake, which shortly after its installation became a U. S. mail route. Scribner was succeeded by Jason Norris and later by Wm. Fryes. Both this and the Bangor line were discontinued shortly after

The Dexter Rifles was organized in 1834 by Lysander Cutler, who commanded the company until 1837. The company participated in the Aroostook war of 1839 and later disbanded. Co. C., 2nd Regt. M. N. G., was organized in 1881, and during its ten years existence attained an unexcelled reputation for marksmanship, having won various individual and team trophies, and a company silk flag, the latter in competition with other companies at the State muster. Apart from peaceful military service many of Dexter's earlier settlers participated in the war of 1812, and 238 of its citizens were enrolled in the



MAIN STREET IN 1901

the opening of the railroad from Waterville to Bangor in 1855, at which time Samuel Cushman established an accommodation line between Dexter and Newport, while Morrison and Hunting operated a day line of Concord coaches between Newport and Moosehead Lake, Gardner Sturtevant, Jerry Paige, and others attending to the trucking of freight. All of the old time transportation methods have given way to quick transit by the railway opened from Newport to Dexter in 1863, and to Dover in 1890, with the prospect of an electric line from Dexter to Bangor in the near future.

various arms of service in the late civil war, while practically a dozen responded to the call for volunteers during the Spanish-American trouble. As a fitting climax a handsome monument in commemoration of those who gave their lives in defence of their country during the war of 61-5 decorates the library park. From a population of 500 in 1820, the town has grown to a population of over 3000 inhabitants, with 852 polls and a valuation of \$1,030,188, the latter having nearly trebled within the past half century.

Dexter is fortified with all the modern improve-

ments, including excellent schools, water, fire department and electric light systems, and has under way, and partially completed, a most thorough and comprehensive sewer system. There are eight churches, two banks—National and Savings—a Trust Company, Loan and Building Association and one of the best public libraries in the State. There are organized branches of all the leading secret bodies, social and fraternal, and a business men's club occupying sumptuous quarters that are second to none within Maine's borders.

Town Affairs.

Dexter was named in honor of Samuel Dexter of Massachusetts and was incorporated June 17, 1816, its first town meeting being held in the August following, Andrew Morse being moderator thereof. Its subsequent conventions were held either in the Safford district school house or at the residence of some one of the fathers of the town until the erection of the school building in 1822, on Main street, which was utilized for town purposes until the erection of a two story Town hall building in 1836, on the hill, which was partially devoted to school purposes. The first town meeting was held therein March 13, 1837. At the town meeting held March 18, 1856, the interior of the building collapsed, causing a momentary panic, though no one was seriously injured. The building was condemned and subsequently purchased by the Abbotts and moved to their plant where it was remodeled and answers the purpose of an office and storehouse.

The present two-story structure was erected upon the same site of the previous Town hall in 1857. It was thoroughly overhauled and remodeled in 1877, and in 1902 further improved by the addition of a gothic portico fronting the park and a general re-finishing of the interior. The main floor is divided into a banquet hall with connecting kitchen, office for the use of the water board, and a convenient lockup in the rear. Upon the floor above, reached by wide, easy stairways at the right and left, is the hall proper, circled by a gallery upon three sides, with private boxes bordering the proscenium of a fully scene equipped stage, which with ample dressing rooms occupies the rear end of the building. The hall is lighted by electricity and acetylene gas and will comfortably seat 700 persons. The seats are readily removed whenever occasion demands.

The present official roster of the town is comprised in E. J. Sturtevant, Andrew Brawn and Atwood J. Cobb as its Board of Selectmen; J. Willis Haines, town clerk; Charles D. Roberts, treasurer; Edwin Bunker, collector; M. D. Russell, road commissioner; Samuel Eldridge, town agent and S. S. Watson, supt. of cemeteries.

Fire Department.

Dexter's fire department is comprised of two hand tubs of the Button manufacture and a Hummel machine the former being located in the town proper and the latter at Spooner's Mills, each being manned by a company of forty men. In addition thereto are two independent hose companies of fifteen men each and hook and ladder truck to which is attached a company of twenty men, all of which are under the direct charge of a Board of Engineers, comprising Leslie Curtis as chief; Forest Lincoln, first assistant and James Mountain as second. The apparatus is all in first class condition, comfortably housed, and the department is supplied with about 3,000 feet of 2 1-2 inch rubber lined hose.

The first fire engine was installed in Dexter in 1836, being followed in 1872 by a hook and ladder truck and in 1875 by the two Button machines.

Prior to the introduction of the water works in 1903, fire protection was afforded the business and a portion of the residential section by iron pipes laid in the principal thoroughfares, with hydrants attached, through which water was forced by fire pumps connected with the woolen mill plants, the first fire pump being installed through public subscription and attached to Small's grist mill. Owing to these excellent precautions fires have been of infrequent occurrence and rarely has a fire spread outside of the building in which it originated.

The principal fires of late years comprise that of April 23, 1883, when a number of structures were burned on Main street below the Dustin block; the High school building on School street, Dec. 17, 1887; the Eldridge Brothers planing mill, March 29, 1888; the Shepherd & Wheeler carriage repository on Church street, March 25, 1895, and the Bank block, Jan. 17, 1896.

Water Service.

Dexter has a most excellent system of water works, installed in the fall of 1903, under the direction of a special town committee chosen for the purpose. Water is taken from Silver pond, which after being thoroughly screened is forced by a Dean pump of 30,000 gallons capacity per hour, through a twelve inch main into a reservoir of 500,000 gallons capacity, located on Ayer's hill, 238 feet above tide water. At present there has been laid 17,224 feet of six-inch, 9,670 feet of eight-inch, 1,466 feet of ten-inch and 1,833 feet of twelve-inch mains, with a supply pipe of 4,907 feet.

There are at present upwards of 80 services in use, with 67 fire hydrants scattered about the town, the average pressure being 100 pounds to the square inch. The system is in charge of Messrs. D. H. Mudgett, S. L. Small and W. H. Judkins as water-

commissioners, and Walter Gordon as superintendent.

Schools.

The school system of Dexter is, and always has been, a pride to its townspeople, and its general efficiency can be ascribed to the indefatigable efforts of its several school boards and supervisors, auxiliarized by a staff of competent instructors. The present school board comprises Dr. W. A. Bumps, as chairman, W. L. Fay and F. O. Additon.

Dexter's school annals are somewhat indefinite,

ing on School street. This building was partially destroyed by fire Jan. 28, 1881, and was at once repaired and remodeled, but Dec. 17, 1887, was totally destroyed by fire, involving a loss of \$3000. It was succeeded the following year by the present handsome edifice on Spring street, erected at a cost of \$12,000.

Including the High school there are four school buildings within the village proper and ten rural school structures, the approximate number of pupils being 700, divisioned into High, Grammar, Intermediate, Primary and sub-Primary grades, with a



PLEASANT STREET SCHOOL BUILDING

though tradition holds that the first school building was erected in 1807, near the residence of Simeon Safford, and that in 1817 the town was divisioned into five school districts.

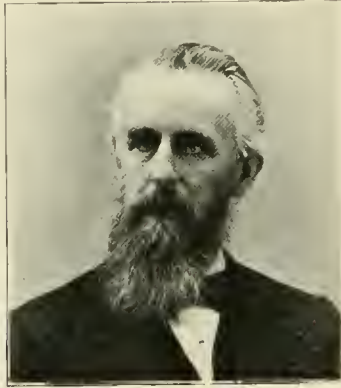
In 1822 a substantial school building was erected upon Main street, on the site of the present law building of Crosby & Crosby, the building for many years being utilized for town conventions. For a long time High school sessions were held in the old Town hall on the hill, but the collapse of that structure in 1856 necessitated a change, resulting in the erection of a High and Grammar school build-

corps of twenty instructors, inclusive of the principal of the High school.

Abbott Library.

Practically midway the park, bounded by Main, Church and Pleasant streets, backed by an heroic memorial commemorative of the valor of those Dexterites who gave their lives in defence of their country during the civil war, and flanked by grim looking cannon, relies also of the late unpleasantness, stands the Abbott Memorial Library, the gift of and a lasting tribute to the memory of the late

George A. Abbott, son of the late Amos Abbott, one of the founders of the Amos Abbott Woolen Company, with which the former was identified for many years.



GEORGE A. ABBOTT

The library building, of somewhat massive appearance externally, was erected in 1898 at a cost of \$30,000 to its donor, in addition to which he bequeathed the income of \$6,000 set apart for its care. The building stands practically upon the site formerly occupied by the residence of the late Dr. G. M. Burleigh, Dexter's whilom postmaster.

The structure is one story in height, built of cream tinted pressed brick with granite foundations and trimmings, the cornice intersections being emblazoned with the names of illustrious authors of classic prose and poetry of old. An ascent of broad granite steps leads through an arched entrance into a tile floored storm vestibule, to the left of which is a commodious apartment assigned to the use of the selectmen, with a smaller apartment opposite for janitorial use, while heavy oaken doors open into a gothic library hall beyond. The book department, extending to the rear, is divisioned from the audience hall by an elaborate latticed counter facing the entrance. To the right of the main hall is a memorial parlor and trustees room, the walls adorned with many handsome works of art, including a life-sized oil portrait of Lincoln, the martyred president, encased in a heavy gilt frame, the gift of the late Mrs. Cyrus Foss. Across from this memorial parlor is a commodious reading and waiting room stocked with the leading weekly and monthly publications. The interior wood work, inclusive of the flooring, is of natural hard wood finish, with tinted walls in harmony therewith, and altogether it is one of the finest library buildings in the State.

The library contains 7300 volumes beside many valuable works of reference available only within the premises. The library is in charge of Miss Lizzie

Springall as librarian, under the supervision of a Board of Trustees comprising H. S. Dole, president, C. M. Sawyer, secretary and Rev. J. G. Fisher, A. A. Springall and F. D. Dearth.

The present library is the outcome of a circulating library supported by borrowers and established in 1867. In 1881 this was merged into a free library and for a time was located in different quarters on Main street. In 1895 it was transferred to the Town hall from whence it was removed to its present quarters.

Post Office.

The Dexter post office, since 1876 occupying the west end of the street floor of the Bank block on Main St., is a model of neatness and its convenience regarding public accessibility and general mailing facilities could hardly be bettered. With the exception of Sunday, six mails daily are received and the same number despatched to and from all points by rail, in addition to which there are two rural free delivery routes, covering a territory averaging twenty-three miles each, with two star routes embracing the towns of North Dexter, Cambridge, Ripley, Garland and Exeter at this office, involving the services of two assistants in the handling and expediting of mail matter.

Dexter's first post office was established in 1818 and located in what is now known as the Flynt house, at that period located nearly opposite the head of Free street. Jonathan Farrar was postmaster and the mail to and from Bangor and intermediate points was transported on horseback, Laurence Green being the first post rider. Ten years later a mail stage line was established between Bangor and Dexter, followed later by lines to Skowhegan and Waterville, these being in later years supplanted by railway mail service. Succeeding Mr. Farrar as postmaster was Dr. G. M. Burleigh, the office being located in his residence, then located where now stands the library building. Dr. Burleigh was followed by Augustus French, who removed the office to his store on Main street, on the corner of what is now Wall street, he being succeeded by George Hamilton, Nathaniel Dustin, Col. H. L. Wood, under whose administration the office was raised to the presidential grade, Dr. Shneon Mudgett, D. H. Mudgett, Nathan Roberts, E. H. Chase, and Freeman D. Dearth, whose appointment dates from July 1st, 1900.



The Churches and Pastors of Dexter

Methodist Episcopal.

The Methodist Episcopal society is the oldest of the several religious denominations in Dexter, having been organized in 1822 by Rev. Melville B. Cox, subsequently a missionary to Liberia, where he died. The society was an offshoot of the Exeter circuit, organized four years prior thereto by Rev. Benjamin Jones of the New England Conference. In 1834 the Methodists and Baptists built a union church. In 1840 the Baptists disposed of their

making a total seating capacity of 600. There are at present 152 members, with a Sabbath school rising 140 scholars, and an Epworth League of 60 members. Its board of trustees comprises S. M. Leighton, president; C. M. Sawyer, secretary and treasurer; W. H. Curtis, care taker; H. B. Haskell, pastor and collector; Llewellyn Copeland, Nathan Daggett, H. A. Johnson, A. J. Knowles, G. W. Marsh and H. E. Tibbetts.

Rev. H. B. Haskell, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, is a native of North Vassalboro and is



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

rights to the Congregationalists, who, in 1846, erected a house of worship of their own, the Methodists acquiring the chapel for their own use. In 1870 the chapel was enlarged and remodeled, and in 1889 was entirely supplanted by the present handsome edifice, corner of Main and School streets, which was completed and dedicated January 28th, 1900. The interior of the structure is finished in polished hard wood, with a wide, deep chancel, in the rear of which is a church organ of the most approved type, to the right and left of which is a pastor's study and reception rooms respectively. The auditorium will seat 400 persons, with the vestry opening therein and

the son of the late Rev. C. L. Haskell of the East Maine Conference. The subject of this sketch was educated in the public school and by private tutorage, graduating from the East Maine Conference Seminary in 1892. He was also an attendant of the Ricker Classical Institute at Houlton, the Drew Theological Seminary at Madison, N. J., and studied with Taylor University of Indiana, where he obtained the degree of Ph. B. In 1894 he joined the East Maine Conference, and in 1896 received his first ordination at the hands of Bishop Merrill of Chicago in Oldtown. Subsequently he attended the Northwestern University of Chicago, graduating



REV. H. B. HASKELL

from its theological department in 1899, and was ordained as Elder of the Methodist Episcopal church by Bishop Mallalieu, of Boston, at Belfast in 1900, and assumed his present charge in September the same year.

First Baptist.

The First Baptist church of Dexter is practically an offshoot of the Parkman Baptist society, and was organized March 16, 1825, and in December the same year became an independent society, Elder Jacob Hatch being the first pastor, Calvin Copeland, clerk, and Levi Morrill, deacon. The present meeting house, on the corner of Main and Free streets, was erected in 1839, and thoroughly renovated in 1888, the parsonage in connection therewith being erected in 1895. In 1903 extensive repairs were made on the interior of the church, as also the parsonage. The present church roster comprises Rev. Henry B. Woods as pastor; Jeremiah Knox, A. E. Mower and L. M. Haseltine, deacons; Mrs. Jesse Kimball, clerk; Ella J. Mower, financial secretary; Mrs. Thomas A. Chandler, treasurer; Mrs. A. H. Fassett, superintendent of benevolence. The church membership is about 150, with some 48 non-residents, and a Sabbath school of 148, George A. Smart being superintendent thereof.

First Universalist.

The First Universalist society was founded September 22d, 1828, Rev. Wm. Frost being first pastor thereof. In 1829 a church edifice, the first in the town, was erected on Church street, the lot upon which it stands, one of the most prominent in town, and doubly so since the erection of the Abbott Me-

morial library adjoining, being the gift of Jonathan Farrar, one of its early parishioners. In 1869 the structure was remodeled and refitted at an expense of \$10,000, and in 1897 further improvements were made, a handsome parsonage on Maple street having been erected in the mean time, in 1891. Many of the most prominent and influential families of Dexter have been, and are at present, identified with this society, including those of Messrs. Farrar, Ab-



FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

bott, Coolidge, Bates, French, Burleigh, Dustin, Shaw, Foss, Carr, Mudgett, Crockett, and many others. The interior of the present edifice is finished in polished hard wood of light effects, the auditorium having a seating capacity of some 500, with a vestry in connection. About 125 families are represented within the parish, with a church membership of 90, and a Sabbath school of rising one

hundred attendants. The parish organization is officially composed of Dana Crockett as chairman, A. P. Abbott, clerk, and Dr. J. W. Sawyer, treasurer, with a parish committee composed of Dana Crockett, A. P. Abbott, J. W. Springall, Charles Morse and Charles G. Towle; Miss Mary H. Hamilton being secretary of the church organization, with Rev. W. H. Gould as pastor, and Mrs. A. B. Crockett, superintendent of Sunday school. Connected with the church is the Y. P. C. U., of which Miss Inez Dustin is president, and Abbie H. Hamilton, secretary, and a Ladies' Aid society, of which Mrs. W. H. Carr is president, and Mrs. T. H. B. Pierce is secretary.



REV. W. H. GOULD

Rev. W. H. Gould, pastor of the Dexter Universalist church, was born in Jay, Maine, June 15th, 1864, acquiring his education in the public school and Westbrook seminary, graduating from the latter in 1881. He then entered Tufts college, of Somerville, Massachusetts, from whence he graduated in 1885, and from thence attended the theological department of the same institution, graduating in 1888. During the last year of his theological course he occupied the pulpit of the Natick, Massachusetts, Universalist church, of which he was ordained pastor at the close of his college course, remaining therewith until 1890, since which period he has been identified with his present charge. In addition to his pastoral duties Mr. Gould is president of the Universalist State Sunday School convention. He is also past high priest of St. John's Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and past noble grand of Plymouth Lodge, I. O. O. F.

Episcopal.

The Church of the Messiah, or what is better known as the Episcopal church, was organized in 1866 Rev. N. L. Briggs being the first rector. In

1869, the present edifice on Spring street was erected, the first service being held therein March 6th, 1872, and in 1877 an organ was placed therein. August 24th, 1887, the church was formally consecrated by Bishop Nealy. Among the rectors of this church, other than those noted, should be mentioned Reverends Charles T. Ogden, A. M. Terris, Richard Price, Thomas Marsden, William D. Martin, George S. Bill, Joseph S. Colton, L. W. Fowler and W. D. Dale. At present the church has no settled rector.

First Congregational.

The First Congregational church of Dexter was organized by Ecclesiastical Council, July 22d, 1834, with the venerable John Sawyer as moderator. The society worshipped in other churches, latterly the Methodist chapel, until 1846, when the society erected its own chapel, which latter was supplanted by the present edifice on Spring street, which was completed and dedicated July 7th, 1886, Rev. Smith Baker preaching the dedication sermon, the society, in the meantime, in 1847, having been incorporated. There are some seventy families represented in the parish, with a church membership of sixty. The Sabbath school numbers seventy-five, of which Timothy Crowther is superintendent. The church organization is composed of Mrs. Belle M. Foss as clerk; Charles S. Hutchinson, treasurer; F. W. Barker, auditor. The church committee is comprised of Deacons P. J. Abbott, Augustus Cummings and Timothy Crowther, with J. Willis Crosby, George Slater and Galen Ramsey constituting



REV. J. G. FISHER

the parish committee. Connected with the society is a Ladies' Aid, of which Mrs. C. S. Hutchinson is president, the Y. P. S. C. E., of which Mrs. Belle M. Foss is secretary, and a junior society of 30 members. The interior of the church is handsomely finished, the auditorium seating about 300.

Rev. James G. Fisher, pastor of the First Congregational church of Dexter, is a native of Livermore, Maine, and was educated in the public schools. Having later acquired a business training he went to Boston, where for ten years he was engaged as a bookkeeper and paymaster for one of the corporations under the management of C. A. E. Ewing & Co. Subsequently he entered the Bangor Theolog-

Free Baptist.

The Free Baptist society of Dexter was organized May 3, 1869, by an Ecclesiastical Council, comprising Reverends N. F. Weymouth, A. L. Gerrish, B. S. Gerry, O. W. Bridges and A. P. Tracy, the latter becoming the first pastor, with fifteen charter members. The four years following the society wor-



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ical seminary, graduating therefrom in 1889. He was called to the pastorate of the Congregational church in Dexter in July the same year, and ordained as its pastor September 13th following. Mr. Fisher is a member of the board of trustees of the Abbott Memorial library, and is chaplain of the St. John's Chapter, Royal Arch Masons.

shipped in the Congregational church, and in 1874 the present church on Spring street was completed, being dedicated in September, 1876, Rev. F. H. Peckham preaching the dedication sermon. The original cost of the edifice was rising \$3,000 which, with additions and improvements from time to time, has resulted, in the aggregate, to something



FREE BAPTIST CHURCH



REV. J. L. SANDERS

over \$8,000, the church being freed from debt in 1888. The society has a membership of about 90, including several nonresidents, with a parish membership representing some twenty families and a Sabbath school of over 90, over which L. H. Folsom acts as superintendent. Connected with the church society is a Ladies' Aid, A. F. C. E. society and Woman's Missionary Auxiliary, Miss S. A. Bragdon being president of the first named, F. B. Arnold the second and Mrs. Lydia Bridges the latter. The church officials are at present comprised in Rev. J. L. Sanders as pastor; deacons, John Lary and T. D. Farrar, the latter also clerk; Miss S. A. Bragdon, assistant clerk and treasurer; W. E. Brewster, W. C. Elder and F. B. Arnold, trustees.

Rev. J. L. Sanders, pastor of the Free Baptist church of Dexter, was born in Swanville, Maine, February 28, 1868. He acquired an elementary education in the district school, supplemented by a public and High school education in Lowell, Massachusetts, whither he moved at an early age, graduating from the High school in 1889. After two years

of business life in connection with the Lawrence Manufacturing company of Lowell, he pursued his studies in the New Hampshire Conference seminary, graduating from its three years medical preparatory course in 1894. From thence he entered the Cobb Divinity school in connection with Bates college of Lewiston, and was graduated in the class of 1897. Entering the ministry, he was called to the pastorate of the Free Baptist church of Lake View, Pennsylvania, in April, 1898, and was ordained as

ing held by reverend fathers assigned thereto at stated periods in the church on High street, erected in 1876. In the year named above the Dexter parish was created and Rev. Fr. P. E. Bradley became its pastor until 1895, when the present pastor, Rev. Fr. John W. Houlihan, assumed charge of the Dexter parish, his jurisdiction also embracing Dover, Sangerville and Monson. Under the latter's pastorship the parish has perceptibly increased in prosperity and membership, the latter representing upward of



ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

pastor thereof July 24th of the same year. In the fall of 1891 he became pastor of the Bow Lake Free Baptist society of Strafford, New Hampshire, remaining until January 12th, 1904, when he became pastor of the Dexter society.

St. Anne's Catholic Society.

Prior to 1893 the St. Anne's Catholic society of Dexter was embraced within the jurisdiction of Waterville, Fairfield and Skowhegan, services be-

ing held by reverend fathers assigned thereto at stated periods in the church on High street, erected in 1876. In the year named above the Dexter parish was created and Rev. Fr. P. E. Bradley became its pastor until 1895, when the present pastor, Rev. Fr. John W. Houlihan, assumed charge of the Dexter parish, his jurisdiction also embracing Dover, Sangerville and Monson. Under the latter's pastorship the parish has perceptibly increased in prosperity and membership, the latter representing upward of

tinted wainscotting and ceiling harmonizing therewith. The statuary and stations of the cross symbolic of Catholicity are all of special importation. The church is not only an architectural ornament to the town but a credit to its parishioners.

Rev. Fr. Houlihan was born in Bangor, Feb. 13, 1871, and was educated in its public and High

schools and was graduated from the Holy Cross college of Worcester in 1891. He subsequently attended the Grand Seminary of Laval University of Montreal, and the St. Sulpice Seminary of Paris, graduating from the latter in 1894. For fourteen months prior to coming to Dexter, he was curate of the Catholic church of Old Town, Maine.

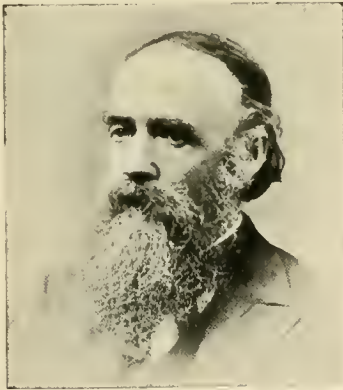
Sketches of Leading Professional Men

Crosby & Crosby.

The oldest law firm in Dexter at the present time is that of Crosby and Crosby, father and son, occupying a commodious office building on lower Main street nearly opposite the stone mill and practically upon the site of the first school building of importance erected by the town in 1822, the handsome colonial residence of the firm cresting the shady slope in the rear thereof. Hon. Josiah Crosby, senior member of the firm, was born in Dover, N. H., Nov. 24, 1816, his parents removing to Atkinson, Me., four years later. He fitted for college in the Foxcroft Academy, later entering Bowdoin, from whence he graduated in 1835 receiving the degree of A. M. in 1838. He read law with Alfred John-

thirty-seven years he was moderator of Dexter's town meetings, was a member of the legislatures of 1857-8, and 1865, and member of the senate in 1867-8, the latter year as president of that body. He was a pioneer in the promotion of the Dexter and Newport R. R. and was one of its directors and counsel therefor for many years. He is a director of the First National Bank, counsel for the Savings Bank, and for many years a member of the Board of Overseers of Bowdoin College. He is also a member of the Maine Bar Association, and one of its original adherents. Mr. Crosby has travelled extensively and in 1887 visited Great Britain.

His son, J. Willis Crosby, was born in Dexter, May 29, 1862, acquiring his education in the public and High schools, graduating from the latter in



HON. JOSIAH CROSBY



J. WILLIS CROSBY

son of Belfast, Frederic Hobbs of Bangor and Charles P. Chandler of Dover, with whom he associated in practice upon his admission to the bar of the Supreme Judicial Court in Piscataquis County, in Sept. 1838. Six months later he entered practice in Kenduskeag, coming from thence to Exeter and to Dexter in 1845. Mr. Crosby has enjoyed a long and honorable career in legal life, his acumen talent having gained him distinguished consideration in the halls of justice, and quite a few of his renditions of the law have become a part of the legal history of the State. Politically he has been frequently honored by his constituents. For

1878, and also a graduate of Bowdoin College of the class of 1882. He read law with his father and was admitted to the Penobscot County bar in 1885, and to the United States Circuit court in 1899. He is a member of the Maine Bar Association, the Republican town committee, is Secretary of the Penobscot County Committee, and was chairman thereof for two years. Like his distinguished senior he has acquired a legal acumen and diplomatic tact that has secured himself and firm business and popularity. They have one of the best private law libraries in Eastern Maine, which they take pride in keeping up to date. The firm employ Miss Winslow,

an experienced stenographer, and the office is equipped with long distance telephone.

Postmaster Dearth.

Freeman D. Dearth, Dexter's present efficient postmaster, was appointed to that position in July 1900, his incumbency thereof having thus far given general satisfaction. Mr. Dearth, who is an attorney by profession, with very convenient offices in the Blethen building opposite the post office, was born in Sangerville, April 16, 1861, and was educated in the public schools with a college preparatory course in the Foxcroft Academy and the Maine Central Institute at Pittsfield, graduating from the former in 1881, and the latter in 1883. From thence



F. D. DEARTH

he entered Bowdoin College graduating therefrom in 1887. Three years later he entered government service in the post office department, and at the same time read law with Messrs. Crosby and Crosby of Dexter, and was admitted to the Penobscot bar in 1896, at which time he entered practice for himself. Mr. Dearth is one of Dexter's public spirited citizens and has been somewhat prominent in local affairs, having been chairman of the school board and at present is a director of the First National Bank, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Abbott Memorial Library.

Dr. W. A. Bumps,

Physician and surgeon, with offices in the Dustin block, was born in Milo, Me., April 26, 1856, becoming a resident of Bangor in 1868, where he obtained an education in the public and High schools, graduating from the latter in 1870. From thence he attended the University of Maine, from whence he graduated in 1875, and from which institution a few years later the doctor acquired the degree of Master of Sciences. Subsequently he entered the medical department of Bowdoin College, and from thence

attended the University of N. Y., graduating from the latter in 1885, and is a post graduate of the same institution. The doctor has also taken a special course in the N. Y. Eye and Ear Infirmary. He came to Dexter in 1875, and in the interim prior to entering practice in 1885, and still a student, was a teacher in the Grammar school for two years, and a year and a half in the High school. For thirteen years Dr. Bumps was connected with the M. N. G., first as an assistant surgeon of the 2d Regiment, being shortly advanced to the position of surgeon, and later for many years was acting medical director of the militia. The doctor has always been in-



DR. W. A. BUMPS

terested in educational matters, having been for two years superintendent of schools, and for the past four years chairman of the school board. He is a member of the Maine Medical Society, and of the Piscataquis Medical Association, as also a member of the Maine Academy of Medicine and Science, and for several years was a member of Dexter's Board of Health.

Dr. F. E. Burgess.

The subject of this sketch, Dr. F. E. Burgess, clairvoyant and magnetic physician, with offices at 36 Main St., is a native of Dover, Me. He was educated in its public schools and Foxcroft Academy. Subsequently he taught school for six terms, and came to Dexter later, where he acquired the machinist's trade, and was employed at Dustin's machine shop for a little over eight years, and from thence was in the service of the Brainard Milling

Machine Co., of Hyde Park, Mass., for a year and a half. He thence devoted his attention to the interests of his chosen profession and has been located in Dexter for the past dozen years.

Dr. J. W. Sawyer.

The subject of this sketch, Dr. J. W. Sawyer, physician and surgeon, with office in the Dustin block, Main St., and residence on lower Main St., was born in Monmouth, July 7, 1865, and a few years later became a resident of Gardiner, where he attained a public school education and graduated from its High school in 1888. He subsequently attended the Normal school at Farmington and later taught school for several terms, and then entered the medical department of Bowdoin College from whence he graduated in 1894. From thence Dr. Sawyer came to Dexter and established practice, where he has since remained. He is a post graduate of the John Hopkins University of Baltimore, was for five years superintendent of Dexter schools, is a member of the Maine Medical Society, and also of the Piscataquis County Medical Association.

Dr. E. Weymouth, Dentist.

Located upon the second floor of the Dustin block are the elaborately furnished and spacious apartments of Dr. E. Weymouth, dentist, comprising a general reception parlor with an operating room in front, and another with laboratory in the rear, and centered by an office and private reception room, all portierred from the main reception room. Dr. Weymouth is a native of Corinna, and was educated in the public school, Dexter High school and Maine Central Institute of Pittsfield, and is a graduate of the Baltimore Dental College of the class of 1895, entering practice in Dexter the same year. Professional ethics forbids any extended eulogium as to the doctor's dental abilities and even if such were not the case, it would be entirely unnecessary, the fact of his being graduated from one of the highest grade dental colleges in the country, combined with the satisfactory service rendered numerous patrons in and about Dexter during his nine years' practice, is a sufficient guarantee as to his competency in all details of medical, operative and mechanical dentistry.

Manufacturing and Business Enterprises



AMOS ABBOTT CO. MILL.

Amos Abbott Co.

One of the principal factors of Dexter's industrial element is the plant of the Amos Abbott Co., manufacturers of woolens, occupying the territory intervening Church and Grove streets, bordering the Wassookeag stream near its outlet with the lake of that name, which in conjunction with a steam plant furnishes operative power. The plant is the outgrowth of a carding mill and the privileges pertaining thereto acquired by Jeremiah and Amos Abbott in 1820, which shortly after was enlarged for the purpose of manufacturing woolen goods. In 1831 Lysander Cutler acquired an interest but disposed of his rights to the Abbotts in 1834. In 1854, Job and George A. Abbott, sons respectively of Jeremiah and Amos, became identified with its manage-

street, the latter built in 1898, together with picker house, dyeing department, several storehouses, a thoroughly equipped machine shop, and commodious office structure. The manufacturing plant has the capacity of a ten set mill, the steam plant in conjunction therewith being equipped with an 100 h. p. engine, in addition to which is an electric light plant equipped with two 250 light dynamos, operated by an 50 h. p. engine. The output averages 50,000 yards of woolen goods monthly, and employment is furnished 170 hands, among whom is distributed \$5,000 monthly in wages. Arthur P. Abbott, manager, is a native of Dexter and apart from a public school education, acquired a special training in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and has been actively identified with the plant for about twenty-four years.



THE DUMBARTON MILL.

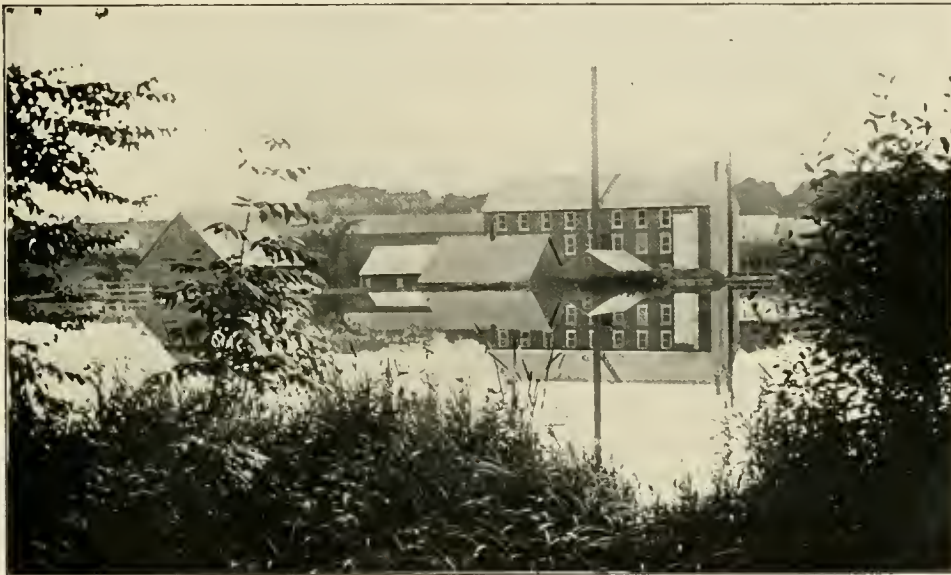
ment, the plant later being operated under the title of Amos Abbott & Co., the decease of Amos occurring in 1865 and Jeremiah in 1880. In later years Arthur P. and G. Walter Abbott, sons respectively of Job and George A. Abbott, acquired an interest, the latter's decease occurring in January, 1898, Feb. 1, 1899, the Amos Abbott Co. was incorporated with Job Abbott as president, Arthur P. Abbott treasurer, and G. Walter Abbott, superintendent, the latter becoming president upon the decease of Job Abbott in January, 1903. Since the decease of G. Walter Abbott in September, 1903, Arthur P. Abbott has been treasurer and manager, the surviving members of the families of the deceased retaining interest therein. The plant at present comprises a three story factory of wood 161x45, with a brick factory 115x60, adjoining and bordering Church

The Dumbarton Woolen Co.,

of which D. R. Campbell is president and treasurer, A. O. Campbell, secretary, who with E. Genthner, D. O. Campbell and George Park, the latter resident manager, constitute the directorate owning and operating the Dumbarton mill, formerly known as the stone mill in Dexter, was formed in 1903. The original mill occupying this site was built in 1834, burned in 1844, and a story stone structure erected the following year, with two stories of wood added thereto in 1868. Since its acquirement by the present corporation the property has been improved and placed in first class condition, and apart from the main building of four stories, 200x50, thoroughly machine equipped for the operation of a seven set mill, includes a picker house, storehouse,

commodious office building, fronting lower Main St., and a newly erected dye house, with an 150 h. p. steam plant, auxiliary to the water power. Its output is about 40,000 yards of plain and fancy woolens monthly, employment being furnished 120 hands, the monthly pay roll aggregating \$4,000. D. R. Campbell, president of the company, is a native of Galashiels, Scotland, coming to Amesbury, Mass., in 1855, and in 1858 to Dexter, purchasing an interest in the old red woolen mill built by Calvin Copeland in 1847, upon the site of the Fay & Scott works. Later he assumed the entire control, and in 1868 the mill was burned. The following year Mr. Campbell acquired a woolen mill in Sangerville which in 1886 was supplanted by what is now

tion of a four set mill, including a steam plant equipped with an 100 h. p. engine. The plant was installed in 1849, and operated by A. E. Conant & Co., the Farrar and Cutler syndicate succeeding thereto in 1854, and the Dexter Mills Co. in 1857, the present management acquiring its possession in 1898, since which it has been vastly improved. Its chief product is broadcloth and a line of carriage trimmings, with an output of 30,000 yards monthly, furnishing employment to from 50 to 75 hands, among whom is distributed \$2,000 in wages. Nathan Daggett, its president, is a native of Dexter and for six years was identified with the Co-operative store, but for the past thirteen years has been engaged in the boot and shoe business at 32 Main



WASSOOKEAG WOOLEN MILL.

known as the St. Ronan's woolen mill plant, in the management of which for the past few years his sons, Angus O. and David O., have been associated. The St. Ronan's is a four set mill of modern type, equipped with an 122 h. p. steam plant, and furnishes employment to rising 100 hands.

The Wassookeag Woolen Co.,

of which Nathan Daggett is president, and D. H. Mudgett, treasurer and manager, is an important industrial factor of Dexter. The plant comprises a three story factory and office building adjoining, all of brick, with a storehouse adjacent thereto, together with the necessary equipment for the opera-

street, he being the exclusive agent of the W. L. Douglas shoe for gentlemen and the Queen Quality for ladies. D. H. Mudgett is a native of Guilford, but with the exception of brief intervals has been identified with Dexter's interests for many years. Acquiring a public school education, he devoted his attention to pharmaceutics, and for three years was in the service of A. M. Robinson, Jr., of Bangor. Returning to Dexter he became assistant postmaster under Simeon Mudgett, his father, upon whose decease he became postmaster, serving for four years. He later became attached to the Bangor Commercial for a year, returning to Dexter and purchasing the Bridgham drug store, which he disposed of to E. A. Brewster two years since.

Eldridge Brothers.

One of the oldest industrial enterprises of Dexter is the planing and moulding mill of Eldridge Brothers, Benjamin and Samuel, which since the decease of the former in Nov. 1894, has been operated solely by the surviving partner. The business was founded in the 40s by C. B. Curtis, who subsequently admitted his son to partnership. The Middlesex Sati-net Mill, on Middlesex place, erected early in the preceding century, formed the nucleus of the plant, in which Benjamin Eldridge later acquired an interest. His brother, the present proprietor, subsequently, in company with his brother, acquired and operated the plant under the title quoted above. The plant was later enlarged, and March 29, 1888, was partially burned with no insurance to cover the loss. The property was at once rebuilt but was again partially destroyed by fire Oct. 20, 1897, with no insurance upon the property. The plant was again placed in first-class condition and comprises at present a two story mill on Middlesex place with an office and storehouse on Grove street, the mill being thoroughly equipped for the turning out of builders' material of all kind, church and store fixtures being a specialty. Employment is furnished to from eight to a dozen hands. Apart from builders' supplies, the firm deal in doors, sash, blinds, glass, and dressed lumber. Mr. Eldridge also manufactures shipping cases for the woolen mill plants in Dexter, and several Waterville manufacturing plants.

Mr. Eldridge is a native of Dexter, and acquired the trade of a ship joiner in Cherryfield, subsequently engaging thereat in Bath, and in 1852 went to Jacksonville, Fla., where he assisted in the construction of two vessels. He served as a member of the State legislature from this district in 1877-8 as did also his brother in 1882-3, and the former is at present town agent.

Fay & Scott.

The largest and most thoroughly equipped mechanical plant in western Maine, if not in the state, is the machine shop and foundry of Fay & Scott, occupying with the buildings thereon three quarters of an acre bordering Spring street at the foot of Free street. Mr. Fay is a native of Upton, Mass., and acquired a thorough knowledge of the business by long experience in connection with establishments of a similar character in Hopedale and Worcester, Mass., and for two years subsequent to 1881, in connection with Nathaniel Dustin's machine shop in Dexter. The germ of the present plant originated in a partnership between Mr. Norman H. Fay and Walter Scott in 1881, under the title of Fay & Scott, which was dissolved in 1896, by the retirement of

the junior partner, since which period Mr. Fay has conducted its affairs with the able assistance of his son, W. L. Fay, who in addition to the practical knowledge attained in connection with the Dexter plant is equipped with a special training obtained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Dexter plant in 1901, was incorporated as a close corporation. The seedling plant was located in a portion of the Dustin block until 1884, when the present plant, since enlarged and improved, was installed, and which is comprised in a machine shop 300x50, and a foundry 130x80. The former is divided by a tower projection enclosing the main entrance with a jutting alcove opposite, amply lighted upon three sides, and within which are the general offices. To the left of the main entrance is an erecting shop and tool room, with a lathe department to the right



W. L. FAY.

with two adjoining wings, the first enclosing planing and milling departments, and the other polishing and casting storage rooms. The foundry includes brass working and moulding apartments, with a commodious flask shed adjoining. The plant is equipped for the turning out of any class of machine work, particularly machine tools, lathes and special sardine and quarry machinery, as also brass work, its product being in demand all over the country. Apart therefrom special attention is given to repair work, as also steam and hot water fitting. Employment is furnished ninety-five mechanics of all grades, the weekly pay roll approximating \$1000. Mr. N. H. Fay is one of Dexter's public spirited citizens and an advocate of all public

improvements. He is a resident director of the Waterville Trust Co. and was a representative to the state legislature in 1900-1

Waterville Trust Co.-Dexter Branch.

One of the most successful financial institutions in Dexter is the branch of the Waterville Trust Co., established April 11, 1898, and located in the Ireland block, Grove street, the parent company having been incorporated in 1893, and capitalized at \$100,000. The Dexter branch is officered by S. M. Leighton as cashier, with N. H. Fay, C. P. McCrillis, S. L. Small, and F. H. Hayes as resident

of every character, and acts as transfer agent, registrar, and trustee under mortgages. The Dexter branch presents an exceptionally fine showing for the six years of its existence. Its demand deposits subject to check as shown by the bank examiner's statement, Oct. 25, 1903, amounted to \$40,858.45, divided among 163 depositors, with a savings deposit aggregating \$225,560.36 distributed among 794 depositors, the total business having since been increased to over \$300,000. This, in conjunction with three other branches and the home office, include a total deposit of \$1,129,428.40, with undivided profits of \$49,651.01 and a \$4,000 surplus.

S. M. Leighton, Cashier of the Dexter branch, was born in Dexter Sept. 10, 1853, and after acquiring a public school education became associated with his father in the grocery business. In 1880, in company with J. W. Haines, under the title of Leighton & Haines, they succeeded to the business established by the elder Leighton, and in 1898 he retired therefrom to accept his present position.

Charles F. Bean,

mason, contractor and builder, whose office and residence is at 4 School street, was born in Dexter, and, subsequent to a public school education, acquired his trade of the well known firm of Standish &



directors. The interior fixtures are of polished hardwood, the banking counter being surmounted by a bronze lattice frame, the whole capped by a steel ceiling, and its quarters equipped with a burglar and fire proof safe. The premises being upon the ground floor are conveniently accessible for business purposes. A general banking and trust business is transacted, deposits being received subject to check, with a savings department in which $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest is allowed on deposits. The company discounts approved paper, loans money on secured collateral, executes trusts



CHARLES F. BEAN.

Woodbury of Boston, where he remained for ten years. For the past twenty years he has been located in Dexter, and as the leading brick mason has had to do largely with work of that character, including the additional story to the bank block com-

pleted a few years since. Mr. Bean makes a specialty of boiler and fireplace work, though prepared at all times to contract for and execute any character of brick work, either in the erection of buildings or the laying of foundations, whether in or out of town, and to furnish estimates in connection therewith.

H. A. Blethen.

In the general retrospection of a town like Dexter one would hardly anticipate encountering such an elaborate jewelry establishment as that of H. A. Blethen, 40 Main street, nor do external indications presage the wonderful transformation that greets the visitor within. Though the display within the



H. A. BLETHEN.

recess of the elaborate plate glass front of the building is attractive enough to call the attention of the passer-by, yet within an air of refinement pervades the premises which with its highly polished show cases, filled with brilliant novelties emblematic of the jeweler's art, that reflect the myriadical rays of jewelistic shelf settings, presents a scene bordering entrancement. The goods thus displayed embrace nearly everything known to the jewelers art, including gold, silver, and plated ware of every variety, from separate pieces of elegant design to a complete side board service, with the best grades of watches, clocks, and personal novelties of all kinds, and a full line of optical goods. Mr. Blethen, who is a native of Dover, Maine, has been identified with the business for nearly half a century, and with the ex-

ception of brief business experiences along these same lines in Nevada and California, been located in Dexter, practically upon the same site whereon stands the modern business structure erected by him some six years since and within which he is located, and wherein apart from the sale of jewelistic novelties he makes a specialty of repairing watches, clocks, and jewelry at all times. For the past fifteen years Mr. Blethen has been ably assisted by his son, Ralph C. Blethen, who is also an expert optician, being a graduate of the N. Y. Optical College of New York city, Spencer's Optical Institute of the same city, and Foster's school of Optics of Boston, with private practice under W. H. Gilbert, M. D., of N. Y., L. L. Ferguson, eye specialist of N. Y., and E. S. Foster, M. D., of Boston, thereby enabling him to at once determine by examination the proper artificial remedy required by those afflicted with defective vision, and to mount and adjust glasses to fit individual cases, a fact which is of essential importance to those whose visionary organs are in any way impaired.

E. A. Brewster & Son.

One of the finest drug stores in this section is that of E. A. and George E. Brewster, father and son, the latter having charge thereof, located in the Bank



ELMER A. BREWSTER.

block, Main street. In general appointment it is the equal of any similar establishment, even in the larger cities, the stock comprising pure drugs, chemicals, medicinal preparations of all kinds, fancy and toilet articles, stationery and school supplies. An

elaborate prescription department is in charge of the junior partner, a registered pharmacist, and who for many years was an attache, and for some time practically in charge of the store, under the former proprietor, whom the present firm succeeded two years since.

Elmer A. Brewster is a native of Parkman, Me.; coming to Dexter when 21, and engaging in the meat business as junior partner of the firm of Jones & Brewster, retiring therefrom in five years, when he went to Boston to engage in the restaurant business. Six years later he returned to Dexter and entered the service of his brother, W. E. Brewster, with whom he subsequently formed a co-partnership under the title of W. E. Brewster & Co. In 1903 he was elected representative to the state legislature.



GEORGE E. BREWSTER.

He is a member and chairman of the Republican town committee and a member of the county committee. He is also a member of the Blue Lodge and Chapter of the F. and A. M., a Sir Knight of St. John's Commandery, of Bangor, and a Noble of the Kora Temple, H. O. M. S., as also a member of the Masonic Grand Lodge, serving two years as a district deputy thereof.

W. E. Brewster & Co.

Practically the largest wholesale and retail grocery, flour and feed firm in Dexter, comprising the brothers, W. E. and E. A. Brewster, occupy the street floor and basement of two stores in the Dustin block, 33-5 Main street. The former is utilized

as a retail sales department, with storage facilities in the rear, the two departments being divisioned by the general office. The adjoining store, added within a year, is devoted to general storage, with two additional storehouses adjoining and connected by a spur with the M. C. R. R., the storehouses having a combined capacity of several thousand bushels of grain and mill feed, and several carloads of flour, the latter being purchased directly from the millers. In groceries, the firm handle everything of essential importance, inclusive of bottled and canned goods in variety.

Both members of the firm are natives of Parkman, the senior migrating to Dexter when seventeen years of age, where he obtained his first mercantile experience in a two years service in the provision business, retiring therefrom to engage in the restaurant business in Boston, returning to Dexter two years later. He then entered the service of C. M. Sawyer, a flour and feed merchant, whose interests Mr. Brewster purchased in 1882, and in 1886 removed to his present quarters, having for storage purposes a portion of the Gazette building, which he later relinquished. Mr. Brewster is president of the Savings Bank, vice president of the First National Bank, director of the Dexter Electric Light Co., and an honored member of several fraternal societies.

Miss R. A. Curtis.

The fancy goods, millinery and notion store of Miss R. A. Curtis, 44 Main street, established some six years since, has become a fixture with Dexter's feminine shopping public. Miss Curtis maintained a similar establishment in New Sharon for many years prior to coming to Dexter and the experience thus attained proved of value, as is attested in the selection of such novelties as are pleasing to her patrons, regarding quality and price, comprising millinery, hosiery, gloves and seasonable underwear, toilet goods, embroideries, wrappers and the hundred or more articles classed as notions, all essential to the convenience and necessity of the fair sex. In fact, it is just such an establishment and stocked with just such goods in variety as would please the most capricious.

Warren H. Carr,

whose hardware establishment, with a storehouse nearby, is at 52 Main street, is a native of Dexter, and, with the exception of a brief interval, has been identified with his present business since 1879, at which period he became a partner of E. A. Ayer, under the title of Ayer & Carr, the latter selling to his partner a year later. Six months later Mr. Carr bought out Mr. Ayer, continuing the business since alone. Light and heavy hardware of every charac-

ter, including supplies in detail for the millman, builder, blacksmith, machinist, painter, in fact, the mechanic of whatever class, together with bar iron, steel and carriage stock, constitute the essential features of trade. Apart therefrom he deals in cutlery, sportsmen's goods, inclusive of fishing tackle, guns, revolvers and ammunition, and in addition carries a full line of wall papers. He also deals in lime and cement, with a storehouse of sufficient capacity for the storage of a large quantity thereof.

Mr. Carr has been a trustee of the Savings Bank for fifteen years, and for several years was a director

J. K. Edes, in Guilford in 1856, the senior member of the present firm becoming identified therewith in 1879. The latter still continues to look after the Guilford business, while T. K. Edes attends to the interests of the Dexter establishment. The elder Edes was widely known as a merchant of sterling integrity and commendable business methods, and the Dexter firm have ingratiated themselves in the public confidence by a maintenance of these fundamental business principles. Their stock comprises all the latest novelties in dress fabrics, in silks, satins and woollens, together with linings, trimmings,



EDES BROTHERS' STORE, 9 MAIN STREET.

in the First National Bank. For the past twenty years he has been treasurer of the Dexter school fund.

Edes Brothers,

dry and fancy goods dealers, 9 Main street, succeeding E. N. Derry some four years since, are among the recent converts to Dexter's business world. The firm is composed of the brothers, W. W. and T. K. Edes, under a co-partnership formed in 1892, in succession to the business founded by their father,

fancy goods and small wares, furnishings which includes hosiery, gloves and seasonable underwear, with a full line of skirts, wrappers and shirt waists, introduced simultaneously with the leading metropolitan establishments of similar characterization, all daintily arranged for ready inspection. Within a tidily arranged apartment in the rear are to be found a full line of ladies' tailor-made jackets and suits, with furs and fur garments in the season thereof. As a whole the Edes Brothers maintain a dry and fancy goods emporium creditable alike to themselves and the business element of Dexter.

H. W. Fish.

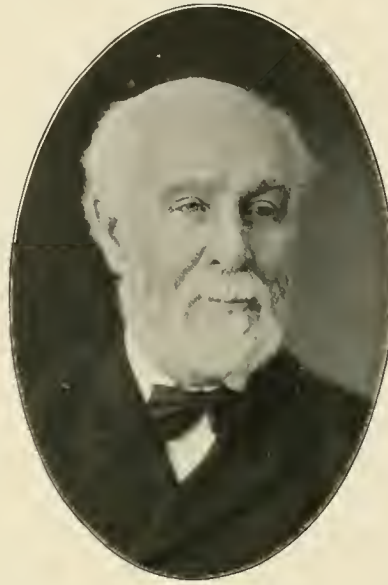
The mercantile interests of Dexter embrace pretty much all branches of business, including a carriage and sleigh mart owned and conducted by H. W. Fish, whose repository and storehouses are both on Church street, the former of two stories, 30 x 40, with an office and harness sales department annexed sufficing for headquarters, and the storehouse, 30 x 60, nearer the railroad station, serving as a repository for surplus stock, the latter having been erected some six years ago. The business was established by S. D. Fish, father of the present proprietor, more than twenty-five years since. The son succeeded thereto on the decease of the elder in 1894. Mr. Fish is a native of Dexter and for eleven years prior to assuming control of his present business carried on a successful harness and saddlery business with a location on Main street. While Mr. Fish deals in harness and horse clothing to some extent, his main reliance is in the sale of fine carriages and sleighs, the former comprising light driving wagons, runabouts, surreys, bike wagons, and in fact most everything in the line of light road vehicles, single or double, with or without tops, rubber tired and otherwise, as also sleighs of the most modern build. Those seeking such will find it worth their while to inspect the stock on display at the repository, as they are more than likely to find something to their purpose, at a price compatible with the vehicle of their choice.

Cyrus Foss.

The subject of this sketch was born in Alfred, Me., Oct. 17, 1823, his parents shortly after moving to Benton Falls. He was educated in the public school, including a term in the high school, and later acquired the trade of a carpenter. He came to Dexter in 1842, plying his trade until 1846, when he became a member of the firm of G. Jewett & Co., foundrymen, and later, in company with Ansel Libby, established a tin-smithing and kitchen furnishing business, which continued until 1857, when Mr. Foss purchased his partner's interest, and enlarging the premises on Main street where he had located, continued therein until 1887, when Dana Crockett became a partner. Mr. Foss relinquished his interest in the business in June, 1890, since which time he has led a retired life.

Mr. Foss has always taken an active interest in town affairs and has served as a member of its Board of Selectmen two years, as also town treasurer one term, and as a Representative to the State Legislature in 1872-3. He was one of the promoters of the Dexter and Newport R. R., of which for several years he was a director, and later became interested in its extension to Dover. He has been a director

of the First National Bank since 1877 and for the past three years its president, and is also a director of the Dexter Electric Light and Power Company. In 1852 he was married to Miss Sarah M., daughter of Amos Abbott, their only surviving child, Mrs.



CYRUS FOSS.

Alice Springall, being a resident of Malden, Mass. Mr. and Mrs. Foss celebrated their golden marriage anniversary in November, 1902, both being handsomely remembered by their many friends. Mrs. Foss had been an invalid for several years, her decease occurring Feb. 1, 1903.

F. J. Gerry & Co.

The firm of F. J. Gerry & Co., comprising the former, in company with Walter Gordon, are not only widely known to the Dexter public and that of its vicinity, but that of the commercial world at large. This firm maintain a grocery, flour, grain and mill feed establishment, the equal of any similar business in this section, located in the Dustin block, combined with an extensive creamery business, with a wholesale branch establishment in Boston. The firm's present business enterprises are the outgrowth of a limited creamery business established by Mr. Gerry in Garland some sixteen years since. Mr. Gerry being the second to place sweet cream upon the market or to ship the same out of the state. The business rapidly expanded, and, from a single team collection with a distribution of \$300 per month among the producers, has developed into a business requiring the service of several teams, latterly furnished by the producers, among whom is disbursed

upward of \$20,000 per month. Eight years ago Mr. Gerry transferred his business to Dexter, locating in the adjoining premises to those at present occupied, Walter Gordon becoming a partner in the enterprise. Shortly thereafter the necessity of increased facilities became apparent and a creamery was erected upon the shore of the lake opposite the depot, equipped with separators, pasteurizers and other machinery of modern type, with an adjoining ice house of 2000 tons capacity. In addition thereto the firm have creameries in Belfast, Bucksport and Corinna, equally as well equipped. The grocery and mill feed department in the Dustin Elock was established about six years since, and connected therewith is a storehouse paralleled by a spur of the M. C. R. R., and another near the depot, the combined capacity of which is about fifteen carloads of flour, grain and mill feed.

Gershom L. Gould,

Truckman, hay presser and shipper of baled hay, whose office and residence is at 85 Main St., is a native of Charleston, but has been identified with Dexter's interests for over a third of a century. Mr. Gould not only does heavy trucking, including that of the Fay & Scott machine shop, but has a



HAY PRESS IN OPERATION.

building equipped with two modern hay presses of a combined capacity of from 20 to 25 tons per day, apart from which he is an extensive purchaser of hay, which he presses and ships on his own account. He has a storehouse of 1,000 tons capacity, paralleling the M. C. R. R. in Dexter, his shipments aggregating 4,000 tons annually.

C. H. Hayden.

For decorative purposes, either for weddings, fu-

nerals or public or private receptions, there is nothing more appropriate than the artistic grouping of floricultural products at the hands of a trained florist. Charles H. Hayden, whose conservatories are at the junction of Main street and Railroad avenue, is prepared to render service of this character and furnish special designs for any occasion, particularly for funerals. Mr. Hayden is a native of Corinna but has been a resident of Dexter since boyhood. He first became connected with the Maine Central railroad in 1867 as a foreman, which position he retained for many years creditably to himself and the corporation. For the past eleven years he has become better known to the public as a florist and gardener. His conservatories, three in number, with a convenient office and designing room in connection, requiring some 5,000 feet of glass in their covering, are of modern design with even temperature facilities for the propagation of such floricultural products as are in demand, which includes the various varieties of roses, carnations, ferns, smilax and potted plants of varied character. Mr. Hayden's services as a floriculturist have been in demand upon many public and private occasions, not only in Dexter, but for many miles around, and though at times it has required considerable ingenuity in decorative arrangement, the work has been invariably satisfactory to all concerned, and especially so in connection with Easter festivals by the churches. In addition to floriculture Mr. Hayden pays special deference to the propagation of seedling plants, particularly lettuce, of which he produces thousands of heads each season. He also propagates and has for sale all the leading varieties of annual seedlings for flower and vegetable gardens.

J. Willis Haines,

The present town clerk of Dexter, and who has acceptably filled that position since May 1, 1895, is a native of Dexter, and has been long and favorably known to Dexterites in connection with the grocery trade, having in 1880, in company with S. M. Leighton, under the title of Leighton & Haines, succeeded to the business of Joshua W. Leighton, and then, as now, occupying the premises at 31 Main street. This partnership continued until 1898, when Mr. Leighton retired to accept the cashiership of the Waterville Trust Company, since which period Mr. Haines, who is and has been agent for the American Express Company since 1883, has conducted the business alone. His stock comprises choice family and staple groceries of all kinds and practically the largest line of china, glass, crockery, stoneware and lamp goods to be found in town. All goods are delivered promptly in any part of Dexter village.

E. H. Jones & Co.

Practically the oldest established meat market in Dexter is that of E. H. Jones & Co., 3 Grove St. Mr. Jones is a native of Athens, Me., and came to Dexter nearly a third of a century ago, and later, in company with E. A. Brewster, engaged in this business, locating at that time at the lower end of Main street. This partnership existed for about six years when Mr. Brewster retired. Since that period, until about two years ago, when H. M. McKusick became a partner, Mr. Jones conducted the business alone. The present location was established some ten years ago. The firm deals in fresh, salt, smoked



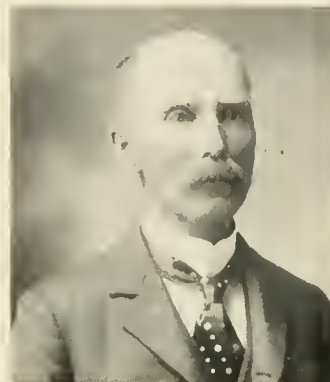
E. H. JONES.

and corned meats of all kinds, with poultry and game in its season, as also shell fish of all kinds. The firm purchase beef largely on the hoof from the neighboring farmers, and do their own slaughtering, having a fully equipped building for the purpose upon the outskirts of the town, and which also has facilities for the preparation and manufacture of sausage and smoked meats. Their premises on Grove street are also supplied with ample cold storage facilities for the proper care of meats. In addition they carry a full line of staple and fancy groceries, which includes canned and bottled goods and relishes.

Wesley H. Judkins.

Wesley H. Judkins, treasurer of the Dexter Savings Bank, was born in Monmouth, Me., and was educated in the public schools and Monmouth acad-

emy. He first entered mercantile life as a member of the clerical department of the Twitchell-Champlin Company of Portland, remaining eight years, and then entering the service of Emery Waterhouse & Co. in a similar capacity. From thence he came to Dexter in 1886, and established a boot and shoe store, which he later disposed of, and acquired the insurance business of H. C. Parsons. Mr. Judkins conducts a general insurance business, representing



WESLEY H. JUDKINS.

the leading fire companies, as also the Fidelity Casualty company, and the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance company. Mr. Judkins succeeded A. F. Bradbury as treasurer of the Dexter Savings bank in 1897. He was for four years a member of the Board of Selectmen, and is at present a member of the Board of Water Commissioners, as also of Masonic bodies.

Dexter Steam Laundry.

One of the most essential factors to the general cleanliness, if not health, of a community is a laundry establishment such as is represented by the Dexter Steam Laundry, 14 Grove St., of which for the past two years C. A. Stevens has been proprietor and manager. Every character of laundry work, inclusive of the most delicate fineries, receives prompt and careful attention, the establishment being equipped with washing, ironing and polishing machines of the most approved pattern. The management, being dependent on the public for patronage, are painstaking with all work entrusted to their charge, the result being an ever increasing business which furnishes employment to a number of hands, as also the service of a collection and delivery team. Mr. Stevens, who is a native of Pittsfield, Me., has had an experience of fifteen years in laundry work, which is a sufficient guarantee of general excellence in the business. His first knowledge of the business was acquired in a five years

connection with the Belfast steam laundry, which, in association with his brother, he managed a greater portion of the time. From thence he went to Massachusetts and assumed charge of the Winchester steam laundry, from which he in a few months retired to travel on the road establishing plants of this character, later assuming charge of a Haverhill, Mass., laundry, coming to Dexter, as previously stated, about two years ago. By prompt, courteous and satisfactory service he has succeeded in establishing a lucrative business.

The Lowell Clothing Co.,

Located at 30 Main St., which is in succession to the business of P. L. Lowell and of which for the past four years Harry E. Hale has been proprietor,



HARRY E. HALE.

is a thoroughly reliable clothing and gents' furnishing house. Mr. Hale is a native of Dexter, acquired his education in its public schools, and prior to his assumption of the business was identified therewith under its former management for fifteen years, and is consequently familiar with its requirements, and those of his patrons. The stock comprises enough and more than enough to meet the demands of those desiring ready-made garments, whatever the age or avoirdupois of the customer, and which are to be found in suits and top coats of the latest fashionable make. Apart therefrom Mr. Hale deals in hats, caps, gloves, seasonable underwear and furnishings of all kinds, as also trunks, bags, and traveling equipage. With the exception of footwear Mr. Hale can array his patrons from head to foot with inner

and outer raiment for any occasion, with a grip and umbrella included. In addition he is prepared to furnish clothing to measure and to guarantee satisfaction therein.

George L. Morrison.

That Dexter's business interests are expanding is evidenced by the fact that within the past few years many new firms have acquired a birthright, all of which are apparently prosperous. Among such is the department store of George L. Morrison, 15 Main St. Mr. Morrison is a native of Tilliecultry, Scotland, and a brother of John L. and William Morrison of the Morrison woolen mills. For more than a dozen years he was identified as a subordinate in the Hartland woolen mills, a portion of this period operating a carding mill. In 1889 he went to Ells-



GEORGE L. MORRISON.

worth, Me., and operated a woolen mill on his own account, disposing of the same about three years since, and returning to Dexter operated a rag picker and grist mill. About three years ago he entered business for himself and opened a department store in the Pierce building on Main street. Two years later he transferred the business to his present commodious quarters. Mr. Morrison's stock comprises, apart from dry and fancy goods of an up to date standard, ladies' and gents' underwear, hosiery, bric-a-brac, embroideries and small ware novelties of all kinds, as also a varied assortment of woolen, cotton and muslin remnants. It is Mr. Morrison's intention to add other popular lines from time to time, with a view of making the establishment a thoroughly modern department emporium.

Meigs & Co.

The firm of Meigs and Co., comprising N. E. and F. D. Meigs, clothiers and men's outfitters, 38 Main St., during the twenty-nine years since its establishment in Dexter, and with which N. E. Meigs, resident proprietor, has been identified for the past nineteen years, with ten years experience in the same line in Phoenix, R. I., has acquired the reputation of dealing in strictly first class goods at strictly honest prices. The living up to this reputation has secured for them patronage and popularity. That the firm can and do carry a large line of ready-made clothing in sack and frock suits and



N. E. MEIGS.

top coats, the equal of custom made garments in fit, style and workmanship, available for all classes, at prices that are often less than quoted elsewhere, is made apparent by the fact that they do a very large business, having stores in Springfield, Mass., Bridgeport and New Haven, Conn., both being natives of Madison, Conn. The firm also carry a complete stock of fur coats, hats, caps, gloves and gents' furnishings of every character, together with trunks, bags, and traveling equipage. Their premises are spacious, with ample facilities for the inspection of goods, and patrons are assured of full value in all purchases.

Mrs. C. E. Morse, Insurance.

One of the most enterprising and successful insurance agents in Dexter is Mrs. C. E. Morse, whose office and residence is on Free street. Mrs. Morse is a daughter of the late George Goff, a former well

known expressman, and entered the insurance field some four years ago by writing life policies, since which time she has added other risks, embracing at present all classes of insurance, including fire, life, accident, boiler, plate glass and health. Among the companies Mrs. Morse represents are the Firemen's Fund and Holyoke Fire Insurance companies, United States Casualty Co., of New York, the General Accident Co., of Philadelphia, the Union Casualty Co., New York, all too well known to require special commendation, and the Mutual Life Insurance Co., of New York, one of the oldest and strongest of life companies, its assets approximating \$400,000,000, with a surplus of rising \$68,000,000, and insurance and annuities in force of nearly a billion and a half. This company did the largest business of any life company in the country in 1902, and has the largest amount of insurance in force, and the largest premium income in Maine. The insurance business requires perseverance, tact and unlimited patience of its representatives in order to be successful. The possession of these attributes has developed a wide field for Mrs. Morse, who is prepared at all times to devote her time and attention to the presentation of facts in detail.

F. W. Parsons.

The building at present occupied by F. W. Parsons, fronting Main street and junctioning Church and Grove streets, is of historical renown from the fact that it was erected in 1835 by Jonathan Farrar and Oram McCrillis, who conducted a general store therein for many years. Through successive ownerships and occupants it has relegated to occupancy by its present incumbent, who established business therein some five years since, after having served in a subordinate capacity in the same line for upward of twenty years in Dexter. As a hardware store Mr. Parsons' establishment is the equal of any similar one in any town, his stock comprising light and heavy hardware, the latter including iron and steel products and carriage stock, while the former embraces mechanical supplies in sufficient variety and abundance to supply the mechanic of whatever grade, inclusive of paints, oils and varnishes, glass and putty. A complete line of fishing tackle, with cutlery and small hardware sundries are to be classed as among the essentials of this up to date hardware establishment, in addition to which Mr. Parsons deals in lime and cement, with a storehouse annex for the accommodation of the latter and heavy hardware.

C. M. Sawyer.

The subject of this sketch was born in Dexter Sept. 16th, 1846, and was educated in its public schools. From 1865 until 1867, he was bookkeeper

and paymaster of the Dexter Woolen Mills company, retiring therefrom the latter year to enter the drug business in company with Dr. G. B. Clough, under the firm title of Clough & Sawyer. This co-partnership continued until 1873, when Mr. Sawyer became associated with W. D. Eaton, under the partnership title of Eaton & Sawyer, the firm conducting an extensive lumber and produce business. In 1878 Mr. Sawyer purchased Mr. Eaton's interest, conducting the business alone until 1888, when he closed out. The following year he became cashier



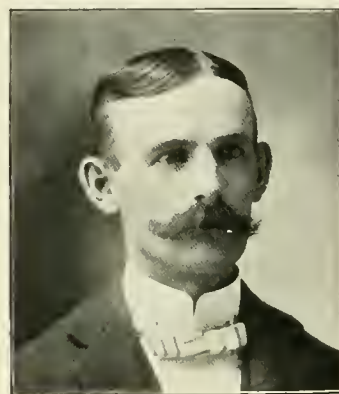
C. M. SAWYER.

of the First National bank, which position he still retains. Mr. Sawyer has been a director of the bank since 1882 and from 1886 to 1889 was its president. From 1867 to 1872 he served as town clerk, and has been a trustee of the Dexter town library for fourteen years. He is secretary and treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the M. E. church, a member of Penobscot Lodge, A. F. and A. M., of the St. John's Royal Arch chapter, and a Sir Knight of St. John's Commandery of Bangor.

Amos A. Springall.

The old and reliable pharmacy of A. A. Springall, situated at 34 Main street, was founded by the father of the present proprietor, Dr. John B. Springall, in 1858, who conducted the business until his death in 1860. Amos A. Springall entered the business in 1873 as clerk, and in 1876 became part owner, and in 1896 sole proprietor, continuing as such to the present time. He is a skillful pharmacist and makes a specialty of the prompt and accurate filling

of prescriptions from the purest and best of drugs. He carries a large stock of chemicals, patent medicines, toilet articles, fancy goods, books, magazines and papers, and one can find almost anything in these lines in this store. Mr. Springall is one of the enterprising and reliable citizens of Dexter and has occupied many positions of trust, being town treas-



AMOS A. SPRINGALL.

urer four years or more, collector of taxes four years and one of the trustees of the town library for ten years and at present. He has been secretary of the Loan and Building association since its organization in 1886, an important and responsible position. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Royal Arcanum.

Charles H. Wyman.

Fronting on upper and lower Main street is the furniture establishment of C. H. Wyman, the largest and most completely stocked establishment of its kind in this section. A large portion of the old buildings were destroyed by fire last spring and a new and beautiful block has taken its place and is now approaching completion. It is two stories high with a large and commodious basement. It has a front on lower Main of 47 feet and on upper Main of 64 feet, all of which is lighted on the first floor by large plate glass. With the exception of one store on the east corner, the entire building will be devoted to the furniture business in its various branches. Beside a large variety of furniture proper, the stock includes bedding, wall paper, shades, carpets and rugs. With the facilities on hand it is perfectly safe to say that Mr. Wyman could readily fill a contract for the furnishing of any domicile with the necessary furniture and house furnishings, befitting every apartment from basement to attic, and still have something left over. Regarding burial supplies, Mr. Wyman is a funeral director in all this

term implies, as also a practical embalmer, and in addition to burial supplies of every character, is prepared to furnish floral decorations, as also a handsome hearse. He will also take personal charge of all funeral arrangements. Mr. Wyman is a native of Fairfield, and in 1882 became an apprentice in a large furniture manufacturing house, serving



CHARLES H. WYMAN.

therein three years, with an additional experience with another furniture house, acquiring thereby a full knowledge of the business. He came to Dexter in 1891 and purchased the furniture business of E. M. Tibbetts, since which he has acquired business and popularity from a large constituency in and about Dexter.

The Printing Business in Dexter.

The early history of the printing business in Dexter is somewhat obscure. The first office in town was started by Rev. J. F. Witherell, a Universalist clergyman, who came here from Fishersville, N. H., and was known as the Leviathan Printing Establishment. March 19, 1853, Mr. Witherell commenced the publication of the "Gem," a small four page weekly. A short time after it was changed to the "Gem and Gazette." This was continued until March, 1863, when, owing to poor health, he suspended publication and his daughter, Caroline F. Witherell, published for one year a monthly paper entitled, "The Gem Gazette." Mr. Witherell then resumed publication of the weekly paper and continued it until 1870. The office force, during the time Mr. Witherell was running the paper, comprised such well known names as Hiram A. Keene, George W. Wormell, Andrew H. Knight, Electa A. Bement, Lizzie M. Bailey and John L. Russell.

In 1870 Robbins and Gallison purchased the Witherell plant and started the "Dexter Gazette." Later Mr. Robbins purchased the interest of his partner

and run the paper alone for some years. M. F. Herring then became a partner and, about 1879, bought the interest of Mr. Robbins. While Mr. Robbins was connected with the paper he was its editor. Later, under Mr. Herring's ownership, it was a portion of the time edited by Mr. Herring; then by Capt. James D. Maxfield, by Thos. H. B. Pierce, Esq., and by Samuel B. Thayer (of Plymouth), in the order mentioned. Day & Bunker succeeded Mr. Herring, Holman F. Day becoming the editor. While they were owners, in March, 1892, the "Eastern State" was purchased of Dr. Fitzgerald and consolidated with the "Dexter Gazette," the name becoming the "Eastern Gazette."

About 1881 or 2 the "Eastern State" was started by Dr. Fitzgerald and for a time was managed by R. O. Robbins. He was succeeded by others and finally by Thos. H. B. Pierce, Esq., who was editor from 1889 to 1892, when it was consolidated with the "Dexter Gazette," as above stated.

"Quiet Hours Magazine" was started in Dexter in the summer of 1887, by Mrs. Fannie B. Damon and Mrs. Mary V. Pierce, who were its editors. This was just before the great reduction of magazine prices, started by Munsey's in 1888. Its price was one dollar a year. It was illustrated to a limited extent and won considerable favor with the public. It had some contributors of national reputation, and maintained a high order of merit. In 1890 it was consolidated with the "Eastern State," then edited by Mr. Pierce. It had a steadily increasing number of subscribers, located in every state in the union; but the low price at which some of the standard



GEORGE C. FURBER.

magazines were then sold, made the outlook discouraging and it was thought prudent to dispose of it.

After the consolidation the "Eastern Gazette" was owned and managed by Day, Bunker & Lane, then by Day, Bunker & Warren, then Bunker and Warren. Ladd Brothers acquired the paper in 1895 and run the property until 1897, when W. S. Ladd acquired the interest of his brother and continued sole owner until May 1, 1901, when he sold to George C. Furber, the present proprietor.

The brief sketch given above gives but a faint idea of the development of the present paper and business. At present the "Eastern Gazette" is an eight page paper with seven columns to the page and contains a weekly history of the thriving section included in Dexter and the surrounding territory. The office is well equipped with the best of type, presses and all that goes to make up a well appointed printing establishment. The best of work is

done, as is shown by the constantly increasing amount turned out, giving the best of satisfaction.

George C. Furber, the present editor and proprietor of the "Eastern Gazette," was born in Woodstock, Vt., April 27, 1847. His education was obtained in the common schools and academy and a course in Eastman's Business college. Purchasing an interest in the "Allegan County (Mich.) Democrat" in 1870, he remained with that paper four years, acquiring a thorough knowledge of the business. In 1874 he purchased the "White Mountain Republic," of Littleton, N. H., and published it until 1889, when he consolidated it with the "Littleton Journal" under the name of the "Republic-Journal." In 1890 he sold out, owing to poor health, and for several years was not actively engaged in business, with the exception of one year when he was business manager of the "Patriot" office in Concord, N. H. May 1, 1901, he purchased the "Eastern Gazette."

Dirigo Hose Co. No. 4.

This company was organized May 9, 1898, under the name of Independent Hose Co., No. 4, but the

trual building. The present membership is: A. C. Grant, Captain; A. L. Sanford, 1st Lieutenant; Mell Shaw, 2nd Lieutenant; George Hall, Jr., Butman; C. F. Bean, 1st Assistant Butman; Charles Brews-



title was changed from Independent to Dirigo June 5, 1899. Its headquarters have always been on Grove street, near the mill of the Amos Abbott Co., but it is expected they will soon be changed to the cen-

ter, 2nd Assistant Butman; W. G. Jackson, 4th Pipeman; Willis G. Haseltine, Clerk; A. H. Bridgham, Steward; E. H. Bragdon, John Caswell, Paul Came, Frank Mason, Hosemen.

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THE SHORT LINE

...AND...

DIRECT ROUTE

BETWEEN

Dover, Foxcroft, Dexter

—AND—

Portland and Boston

IS VIA. THE

Maine Central Railroad

through Newport and Waterville, thence along the Kennebec River through Augusta, Hallowell, Gardiner and Brunswick, connecting for Skowhegan, Bath and Rockland, or via. the "back road" through Oakland, Winthrop and Lewiston, connecting for Farmington, Rangeley Lakes, Rumford Falls and Bemis; and at Danville Junction with stages for Poland Springs. At Portland connection is made with THROUGH TRAINS TO MONTREAL and QUEBEC via. the GRAND SCENERY of the WHITE MOUNTAINS

The Maine Central R. R. is also the THROUGH CAR—Quick Service Line to Bangor, Ellsworth, Bar Harbor, Eastport, Calais, and via. Enfield, Danforth and Vanceboro to St. Stephen, St. John, Aroostook County and the Maritime Provinces.

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